

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF LITHUANIA

By Richard M. Levine

The mining industry of Lithuania extracted peat and industrial minerals, including clays and sand and gravel. The industrial minerals industry was of significant magnitude as Lithuania ranked fourth among the republics of the FSU in the production of lime, fifth in the production of cement, and sixth in the production of bricks. There were more than 290 enterprises engaged in the production of industrial minerals, including nitrogenous fertilizer, and more than 240 sand and gravel deposits under exploitation. The country's peat production was used in agriculture as compost and litter.

The Ignalina nuclear powerplant in Lithuania, a graphite-moderated pressure-tube reactor, provides a large percentage of the country's electric generation capacity. Lithuania also has the Baltic states only oil refinery at Mazheikiai with a capacity to produce over 13 million metric tons per year (Mt/yr) of petroleum products.

In 1995 GDP was estimated to have increased by 3% compared with 1994; in 1994 the country experienced a 2% increase in GDP. In 1995 mixed results were reported in the mineral sector, with increased production reported for ammonia and sand for glass and decreased production for cement, peat, refinery products, and sand and gravel. According to the Lithuanian Statistics Department, in 1995 ammonia production (nitrogen content) reportedly increased to 442,200 metric tons (t) compared with 277,200 t in 1994, while cement production in 1995 reportedly decreased to 649,000 t compared with 736,000 t in 1994. Peat

production in 1995 decreased to 214,000 t compared with 411,000 t in 1994 and production of petroleum refinery products in 1995 decreased to 857,600 t compared with 1,034,800 t in 1994.

In 1995, construction was finished of the first stage of a petroleum and petroleum products loading terminal at Butinge on the Baltic Sea. The terminal is to have a designed import and export capacity of 8 Mt/yr of oil and 2.5 Mt/yr of petroleum products. The terminal was designed with the assistance of the United States firm Fluor Daniel William s Brothers, and is being built by Lithuanian companies with credit being extended by the United States Export-Import Bank.

Lithuania with its large production of sand, gravel, limestone, dolomite, chalk, and clay is self-sufficient in raw materials to produce construction materials, but is almost entirely lacking in metals and mineral fuels. Resources that are being considered for development include an iron ore deposit of fine-grained magnetite that exceeds 50% iron content and a gypsum-anhydrite deposit.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Statistikos Departmentas
Gedimino Pr. 29
2746 Vilnius, Lithuania

TABLE 1
LITHUANIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES e/ 1/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		1992	1993	1994	1995
Ammonia, nitrogen content		275,000	250,000	277,200 2/	442,200 2/
Cement		1,500,000	1,000,000	736,000 2/	649,000 2/
Clays:					
Brick	thousand cubic meters	700,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Concrete aggregates	do.	300,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
For cement		800	600	600	500
Limestone		5,000,000	4,000,000	3,500,000	3,000,000
Peat		400,000	400,000	411,000 2/	214,000 2/
Petroleum; refinery products		1,000,000	1,000,000	1,034,800 2/	857,600 2/
Sand and gravel	cubic meters	15,000	30,000	47,600 2/	32,000 2/
Sand, for glass	do	80,000	60,000	33,100 2/	46,700 2/

e/ Estimated.

1/ Table includes estimates based on information available through June 30, 1996.

2/ Reported figure.

TABLE 2
LITHUANIA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY FOR 1995

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity e/
Ammonia, nitrogen content		Jonava nitrogenous fertilizer plant	Jonava	400
Cement		Akmyantsementas enterprise	Akmyane	2,500
Clays (for brick production)	cubic meters	Production at 19 deposits with the largest production facilities: The Daugelskoye plant exploiting the Daugelai deposit.	Daugelai	1,500,000 (total for 19 deposits).
Do.		The Ignalinskoye plant exploiting the Dinsa deposit	Ignalina region	
Do.		The Tauragskoye enterprise exploiting the Taurage deposit	Taurage region	
Clays (for concrete aggregates)		Krunay deposit	Krunay region in central Lithuania	500.
Clays (for cement)		Saltiniskiai deposit	Saltiniskiai region	2,000.
Limestone		Karpenai deposit for cement production	Karpenia region	8,000.
Peat		Production at 11 enterprises exploiting 55 deposits Largest enterprises are: Siauliai exploiting Didisis-Tiryalis and Sulinkiu deposits	Siauliai region	350.
Do.		Ezherelskoye exploiting Ezherelis and Pales deposits	Ezherelis region	400.
Do.		Ionovskoye exploiting Paraistis and Disisis-Raystas deposits	Paraistis region	300.
Do.		Baltoyi-Bokeskoye exploiting Baltoyi and Vokeskoye deposits	Baltoyi-Boke region	300.
Petroleum products		Mazheikiai petroleum refinery	Mazheikiai	12,000.
Sand and gravel	million cubic meters	246 deposits under exploitation. Largest enterprises: Trakaijskoye association exploiting Serapinshkes deposits	Trakai region	20 (total for 246 deposits).
Do.	Do	Rizgonskiy plant and Yurbarkskiy plant exploiting Rizgonys and Kalnenay deposits	Rizgonys region	
Sand (for glass)		Anyksčiai deposit	Anyksčiai	150.

e/ Estimated.